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2025-079

Report

Appoint Susan Trexler and Jonah James Jensen to the Portland Historic Landmarks Commission

Accepted

TO THE COUNCIL:

As Mayor, I request Council confirmation of the following appointments to the Portland Historic Landmarks Commission (HLC).

The Portland Historic Landmarks Commission (HLC) has two upcoming changes that need action. The HLC is a 7-member volunteer commission which provides leadership and expertise on maintaining and enhancing the City's historic and architectural heritage. The HLC reviews new development within historic districts and major alterations to historic resources. Members must have a demonstrated interest, competence, or knowledge of historic preservation.

I recommend two candidates for appointments to vacant positions on the HLC for the 4-year terms noted below:

Appointment	Member Category	1st Term
Susan Trexler	Preservation Consultant	April 1, 2025 - March 31, 2029
Jonah James Jensen	Architect	June 22, 2025 - June 21, 2029

Susan Trexler is a consulting architectural historian with 10+ years of professional experience in historic preservation. She was the sole Historic Preservation Urban Planner for 6 years in an Illinois community recognized internationally for its significant architectural history. In this capacity she oversaw all preservation duties including project reviews and staff liaison to the Historic Preservation Commission. Susan has volunteered at a number of architectural history group and most recently at Portland's Architectural Heritage Center.

Statement of interest from Susan Trexler: *"Our existing historic preservation systems have many great tools that can help us as a community. I*

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Introduced by

[Mayor Keith Wilson](#)

City department

[Permitting & Development](#)

Service area

[Community and Economic Development](#)

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Agenda Type

Consent

Date and Time Information

Meeting Date

March 19, 2025

also strongly believe in the importance of diversity and inclusion, and thinking outside the box to solve problems. I hope to accomplish the Commission's mission while also bringing an open and creative mind. I am always interested in finding new ways to solve problems or address needs while meeting preservation standards; every project and topic is unique and should be considered accordingly."

Jonah James Jensen is an architect with 20+ years of experience in historic rehabilitations and additions. During his educational planning and design work Jonah led and facilitated a variety of stakeholders that required collaboration and participation with culturally diverse and multilingual groups. Jonah also served on a historic commission in Washington for 6 years. The sustainable aspects of modernizing historic buildings are an interest that he hopes to continue to pursue with his membership on the commission.



Statement of interest from Jonah James Jensen: *"I would like to bring my lens and over 20 years of expertise historic rehabilitations in providing guidance to applicants and the commission as a whole. I'm very interested in the sustainable aspects of modernizing historic buildings. I like to think of myself as a voice of reason during challenging discussions and disagreements in helping to facilitate and guide a productive conversation."*

Together these two candidates will provide this decision-making body with historic preservation and rehabilitation expertise that will be lost with the membership changes in the coming months. Their knowledge of commission work and processes will assist in swift on-boarding and a more seamless transition. Their collaborative, problem-solving approach and working with diverse communities will serve the commission well.

With these appointments, no vacant positions will remain on the Historic Landmarks Commission.

I recommend that Susan Trexler and Jonah James Jensen be appointed to the Portland Historic Landmarks Commission for first terms dated April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2029 (Trexler) and June 22, 2025 through June 21, 2029 (Jensen).

Exhibits and Attachments

-  [Committee Staff Summary - Climate, Resilience and Land Use](#) 88.11 KB
-  [Presentation](#) 1.47 MB

Impact Statement

Purpose of Proposed Legislation and Background Information

The appointment of these Commissioners is required by Portland City Code [Title 33] to fulfill quorum requirements for Type 2 Appeals and Type 3 Land Use Reviews.

Financial and Budgetary Impacts

The HLC appointments are citizen-volunteer positions, so no revenue or expenses are incurred by this legislation

Economic and Real Estate Development Impacts

Not applicable

Community Impacts and Community Involvement

The Portland Permitting & Development continually advertises positions for the Commission through its webpage, City of Portland job opportunities webpage, NeoGov, through media announcements of upcoming positions, and through phone calls by Staff. Media announcements are widely circulated in the design, development, and neighborhood community news outlets and web pages.

100% Renewable Goal

This proposal is for an appointment of an individual to a volunteer commission; therefore, this goal is not applicable to this action.

This legislation appoints citizen volunteers to serve on the Historic Landmarks Commission and will therefore have no impact on the City's energy use. This legislation neither contributes to nor detracts from the City's goal of meeting 100% of community-wide energy needs with renewable energy by 2050.

Financial and Budget Analysis

No fiscal impact as Historic Landmarks Commission appointments are citizen-volunteer positions

Document History

Document number: 2025-079

Agenda	Council action
March 13, 2025	Referred to City Council Motion to refer the

Agenda	Council action
<div>Regular Agenda</div> <div>Climate, Resilience, and Land Use Committee</div>	<p>appointment of Susan Trexler and Jonah James Jensen to the Portland Historic Landmarks Commission to full Council with the recommendation that the appointments be confirmed: Moved by Morillo and seconded by Ryan. (Aye (4): Kanal, Ryan, Morillo, Novick; Absent (1): Avalos)</p>
<div>March 19, 2025</div> <div>Consent Agenda</div> <div>City Council</div>	<p>Confirmed</p> <p>Item was pulled from the consent agenda for discussion.</p> <p>Motion to accept the report: Moved by Smith and seconded by Kanal.</p> <p>Aye (12): Avalos, Dunphy, Smith, Kanal, Ryan, Koyama Lane, Morillo, Novick, Clark, Green, Zimmerman, Pirtle-Guiney</p>